

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission  
May 26, 2010  
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center  
Murdock Room -IDHS  
Suite 5-300  
100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, Illinois

and

Illinois Department of Transportation  
1100 E. Port Plaza  
Room 101  
Collinsville, IL 62234

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro  
Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.  
David Chang  
Robert S. Enriquez  
Nabi Fakroddin, P.E., S.E.  
Marylee Freeman  
Spencer Leak, Sr.  
Munir Muhammad  
Rozanne Ronen  
Diane M. Viverito  
Gregory Simoncini  
Charles E. Box

In Collinsville

Marti Baricevic

Staff

N. Keith Chambers  
Reva Bauch

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Dr. Ewa I. Ewa  
Michael J. Evans  
Harriet Parker (via telephone)  
Donyelle L. Gray  
Evelio Mora  
Christine Welninski

Members of Public: *None*

**NOTICE:**

Public meetings and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

**I. Call to Order**

On May 26, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. General Counsel Harriet Parker explained via the telephone, that because she was feeling ill, she would be participating in the meeting via the telephone, from her Commission office.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting. All members of the public body were present. Commissioner Box arrived shortly after the approval of the April 28, 2010 minutes.

**II. Consideration of Minutes**

March 24, 2010

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of April 28, 2010, as submitted by the staff. Motion made by Commissioner Freeman and seconded by Commissioner Nabi to approve the minutes, as amended. Motion carried 12-0.

**III. Staff Reports**

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

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Executive Director Chambers reported that the latest draft of the 2008-2009 Annual Report has been received and is under review by Chairman Castro.

Mr. Chambers stated that he and the Commission's senior staff had attended the Auditor General's exit conference on April 28, 2010, and that the Commission is in compliance with most of the findings. Mr. Chambers stated that all of the findings were a result of staff and or funding shortages, and were therefore, not in the Commission's control. The results of the Commission's audit have been published and are available for review on the Auditor General's website.

Mr. Chambers reported on the Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act. This Act would require each state agency to complete its own internal auditing. Mr. Chamber also reported that there is no change in status in the Commission's proposed budget which is currently working its way through the Illinois General Assembly.

Mr. Chambers advised the Commission on the ongoing negotiations between CMS and AFSCME. CMS and AFSCME have been in discussions over possible required furloughs days (8) for ASFCME members.

**B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer**

Chief Fiscal Officer Dr. Ewa reported that the Auditor General's audit is complete and that the Commission is 90% in compliance. Further, there are no new developments with the Commission's proposed budget.

**C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge**

Chief Administrative Law Judge Evans reported on the cases filed and disposed of in the Administrative Law Section for the month of April 2010. ALJ Evans noted more cases had been closed than newly filed.

ALJ Evans also updated the Commission on the ongoing unionization of the Commission's Administrative Law Judges. At the moment CMS is challenging the Administrative Law Judges' right to unionize.

**D. Harriet J. Parker, General Counsel**

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General Counsel Parker reported on the number of cases filed with the General Counsel's section for April 2010. Requests for Review and Exception filings continue to increase with 83 new RFR cases in April.

Ms. Parker reported that the Commission is 100 per cent complied with the state's mandatory ethics training for staff and with the submission to the Secretary of State of the Commissioners' Statement of Economic Interest forms. All Commissioners were encouraged to complete the ethics training and to submit completed compliance forms.

Ms. Parker thanked Deputy General Counsel Donyelle Gray and Assistant General Counsel Evelio Mora for their fine work in identifying and recruiting four excellent Coles Fellowship Law Clerks, Casey Fundarek, Sun Hee Choi, Eddie Young, and Rashidat Ogbara. A welcome continental breakfast has been planned for the Coles Fellows for June 8<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Office. All Commissioners and staff are welcome to attend. In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Freeman, it was agreed that each Commissioner would contribute between one and two dollars towards the cost of the breakfast.

Lastly, Ms. Parker informed the Commission of Deputy General Counsel Donyelle Gray's reappointment as the Commission's Special Assistant Attorney General.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. IHRC Brochure**

Chairman Castro suggested that a caption stating "To File A Charge of Discrimination" be placed over the Department's contact information on the IHRC brochure.

**B. Community Outreach**

Commissioner Simoncini gave an overview of the Community Meeting planned for June 12, 2010. Commissioner Simoncini informed the Commission that Governor Pat Quinn or his Chief of Staff will endeavor to attend the event. In response to an inquiry regarding publicity for the event Commissioner Simoncini stated that a number of public announcements are planned and that all local politicians will be invited.

**V. New Business**

Chairman Castro announced that he and Commissioner Viverito are traveling to Springfield on May 27, 2010 for confirmation hearings.

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**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Hussain, with a second by Commissioner Enriquez. Motion carried 13-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Parker  
General Counsel